

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 30 JOBS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY** ***\$300,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Gerdau Ameristeel Expand***

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Gerdau Ameristeel, makers of steel products for the civil construction, manufacturing, automotive, mining and agriculture industries, will expand its Charlotte Mill creating 30 new jobs and investing \$26.3 million over the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$300,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

“Gerdau Ameristeel’s decision to expand its Charlotte facility is a testament to our world-class business climate that is enhanced through our continuing investments in education, workforce development and infrastructure,” Easley said. “This business growth will provide 30 hard-working North Carolina families with jobs that pay more than double the county average.”

Gerdau Ameristeel of Tampa, Fla., is the fourth-largest steel company in North America. The company produces a wide range of steel products including reinforcing steel, wire mesh, nails and rail spikes. The company’s Charlotte Mill opened in 1961. While wages will vary, the expected average weekly wage of the new jobs is \$1,557 including benefits, which is more than double the Mecklenburg County average weekly wage of \$632.

A large portion of the company’s capital investment in the Charlotte Mill includes a project that will better regulate energy used for its electric arc furnace, which is used to melt recycled scrap metal for production of new steel.

“The capital investment efforts we are making at Gerdau Ameristeel’s Charlotte Mill are a sign that well-paying manufacturing jobs are going to stay here,” said Tony Read, Charlotte Mill general manager and vice president. “We are excited to incorporate new technology, grow the facility and better meet the needs of our customers.”

“This is great news, not just for our area but also for the entire state,” Sen. Malcolm Graham (D-Mecklenburg). “Once again, North Carolina continues to be in the forefront of securing new jobs and strengthening our job retention.”

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